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UNITED STATES  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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April 22, 2005

Hon. John E. Potter  
Postmaster General and Chief Executive Officer  
U.S. Postal Service  
475 L'Enfant Plaza SW  
Washington, DC 20260-0080

Dear Postmaster Potter:

Last year, the United States Postal Service indicated that it would be informing the congressional delegation and local leaders by the end of 2004 regarding plans for relocating the USPS's St. Paul Process and Distribution Center (P&DC). Therefore, I am formally requesting an update by senior USPS officials for members of Minnesota's congressional delegation as well as local elected officials and community leaders in Minnesota in the immediate future. Issues of specific interest would include:

1. An update on the planning process for relocating the St. Paul P&DC to the proposed Eagan, MN Bulk Mail Center;
2. An assessment of outstanding decisions necessary for the USPS to make a final determination for such a re-location;
3. A timetable for next step actions by the USPS.

As you know, the USPS has determined that the existing St. Paul P&DC operation is incompatible with local plans to establish a multi-modal transit hub at St. Paul's Union Depot including light rail and commuter rail service. The State of Minnesota has approved \$5.3 million in the bonding bill recently signed by Gov. Tim Pawlenty for continued design work for the Central Corridor (light rail) linking Minneapolis with St. Paul's Union Depot. Furthermore, the *Saint Paul Pioneer Press* reported on April 12, 2005 that:

"The Twin Cities' next commuter rail project most likely will be in the 30-mile Red Rock Corridor from Hastings to Minneapolis through the St. Paul Union Depot. Service on that \$262 million line could open as soon as 2015."

We are rapidly approaching the time in which federal, state and local funding invested in planning for a transit hub at the Union Depot will require a level of absolute certainty about the USPS's plans for relocating from its current St. Paul riverfront location. If there is even a remote possibility that the USPS will not be vacating its current facility our community deserves to know this immediately since it will radically change the East Metropolitan strategy for transit development.

Postmaster Potter, the cooperation our community has received to date from the USPS has been exemplary. I greatly appreciate your cooperation in fulfilling this request for an open dialogue between federal, state and local leaders and the USPS regarding both the future needs of the USPS as well as our region's planning for vital transportation infrastructure.

I look forward to hearing from you in the near future.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Betty McCollum". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Betty" and last name "McCollum" clearly distinguishable.

Betty McCollum  
Member of Congress

cc: Hon. Patrick R. Donahoe, Deputy Postmaster General  
Senator Mark Dayton  
Senator Norm Coleman  
Rep. John Kline  
Rep. Martin Sabo  
Rep. Mark Kennedy  
Rep. James Oberstar  
Hon. Victoria Reinhardt, Chair, Ramsey County Board of Commissioners  
Hon. Rafael Ortega, Chair, Ramsey County Regional Rail Authority  
Hon. Randy Kelly, Mayor of St. Paul  
Hon. Kathy Lantry, St. Paul City Council President